

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A solid ink feed system for a printer includes a longitudinal feed channel having a feed direction, and an insertion key plate having a key plate opening through it to provide access in an insertion direction into the feed channel. The insertion direction is different from the feed direction. The key plate opening has an insertion opening perimeter that includes two lateral opening perimeter segments and a transverse opening perimeter segment. The transverse opening perimeter segment intersects at least one of the lateral opening perimeter segments at an angle other than 180°. The insertion opening perimeter includes a first nonlinear key element on one lateral perimeter segment, a second nonlinear key element on a second lateral perimeter segment, and a third nonlinear key element on the transverse perimeter segment. An ink stick for the solid ink feed system includes an ink stick body having a perimeter shape that substantially matches the insertion opening perimeter.